# Fire/EMS/911/Coroner PCIS: Fact Sheet

# November 9-11, 2026

**The Overall Goal of the Training:** turning vulnerability into strength through learning, utilizing and offering peer support. This is an experiential workshop for first responders who have "been there". Despite the best support immediately following a critical incident, there can be long lasting effects. Going through a critical incident is like crossing a fence, with no opportunity to jump back. A critical incident can rupture a responder's basic worldview. You are vulnerable and must emotionally come to grips with a reality that the uninitiated cannot understand. The job, the street, and one's tools are perceived differently. The PCIS will provide education on trauma, patterns of resolution, and field-tested coping strategies to promote recovery and resilience. Peer support is an important element of the PCIS. Discussion of incidents with fellow officers who have "been there" promotes normalization and recovery. This format originated with the FBI in 1983. SCLEAP has been hosting the PCIS in South Carolina since January 2000. This is the first Fire/EMS/911 PCIS in nation.

PCIS Fire/EMS/911 01

**PCIS Fire/EMS – The First of Its Kind in the Nation**
**Turn Vulnerability into Strength.**

You've been there. You've faced moments that change everything—when the job, the street, and even your own tools suddenly feel different. A critical incident can shake your worldview in ways only another first responder can understand.

The **Post Critical Incident Seminar (PCIS)** is an immersive, peer-driven workshop built *for* first responders *by* first responders. Together, we'll:

- Learn how trauma impacts the mind and body
- Explore proven, field-tested strategies for recovery
- Share experiences in a safe, confidential space
- Build resilience through the power of peer support

Since 1983, this format has helped thousands in law enforcement. SCLEAP has hosted PCIS in South Carolina since 2000—and now, for the first time ever, it's tailored specifically for **Fire and EMS and 911**.

You've crossed the fence. You can't go back. But you *can* move forward—stronger than before.

**Join the first Fire/EMS/911 PCIS in the nation.**

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**What is a Critical Incident?** A Critical Incident is any event that results in an overwhelming sense of vulnerability and/or loss of control. These include line of duty shootings, getting shot or seriously hurt on the job, high speed pursuits that end in tragedy, events that bring prolonged and critical media attention, personal tragedies and the like.

**What will I get out of this?** An opportunity to share one's experience with one's peers, give and receive support, sessions with first responder related mental health professionals utilizing proven trauma recovery methods, and learn coping strategies that will enable recovery from past critical incidents and strengthen one's ability to deal with future incidents.

Training slots are limited. We may not be able to include everyone who wishes to participate in the program. We are planning a PCIS which will include up to 35 responders. As the course fills up a waiting list will be started. The facilitators will be Firefighter and EMS peers, law enforcement peers, mental health professionals and Public Safety chaplains. This is a program which will be offered to any Fire, EMS workers and 911 Telecommunicators in the state, a Spouses/significant others and are invited to attend the 2025 PCIS offering.

8/16/25 PG/JO/ES